

# Nevada LSTA Program, FFY 16

## *Mid Year Evaluations*

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### MINI GRANTS

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#### Carson City Library

##### Bully Free Zone, \$4,600

The library has worked closely with the Carson City School District (CCSD) on the Bully Free Zone Grant to coordinate with the school district's own Bully Free Zone efforts. By working with the school district's Educational Services office to establish presentations and identify materials we have gained great insight from the school district's counselors, social workers, librarians, and professional development team to effectively respond to the school district's needs and collaborate to support middle and high school students in Carson City.

Providing presentations to support all Carson City School District students was difficult due to large populations at the middle and high schools and the student's daily schedules. We did not want to interrupt the student's school day and were limited in our planning due to this. This impacted Carson High School the most as they can only accommodate one grade level at a time in their gymnasium and their class periods did not allow enough time for transition for multiple presentations. The school's administration and counselors decided that the Freshman class was the best population to target for the presentation at their school.

#### Carlin Combined School Library

##### Carlin Library Book Infusion, \$5,000

At this point in time I have utilized \$4,428.38 of the grant monies on equipment, supplies, high interest and informational titles for both elementary and secondary students. I plan to use the rest of the money on additional titles that the students have requested. The secondary students have begun to hang out in the library before and after school searching for the new titles. It's fun to see them getting excited about the books.

I am enjoying the excitement that has taken over the library with each new shipment of books arriving. I have students requesting titles before I even have them cataloged. They are thrilled with all of the new books coming in. I have some students that rarely check out books asking me to put their name on the new

titles so that they can read them first. I just want to say thank you for the funding that made this possible! This grant is making a difference in the students of Carlin Combined Schools. I get to witness it daily.

## Elko-Lander-Eureka County Library System

### Promoting STEM Skills in Young Children, \$4,949

The Elko County library has held two separate programs using the STEM kits that were purchased. The first program was held on November 21, 2016 during a "Maker Monday" event at the Elko County Library. We used the Air and Water Power Experiment Kit. The eleven participants ranged from a five year old girl who teamed with her father to teenagers. The kids worked in teams and each team built the rocket kit. This led to a lot of discussion and excitement.

The second program was also during a "Maker Monday" held on December 19, 2016. Due to the school holidays we had two participants. The kit was the Human Body and the two participants teamed up as they made stethoscopes and listened to their heart and stomach. They also tested pulse rates, worked with fingerprints and measured lung capacities.

The benefit of these STEM Kits is that they generate an interest in science and engineering for kids of all ages and require that they use critical thinking skills to work together and solve problems. With continued exposure, youth will gain a knowledge and love of skills and mindsets necessary for future and current fields in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

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# COMPETITIVE GRANTS

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## Carson City Library

### Mobile Maker Space, \$30,197

The library has re-purposed the city van to be the Mobile Makerspace. A fresh, attractive van wrap has completely redone the look to the van. The maker box kits for Makey-Makeys, Strawbees/Geostix, Raspberry Pi, and Stop-gap Animation have been purchased and set into project sets. The library already owns the Makerbot 3D printer for the project and most of the supplies. The final maker kit is with the laser cutter. After some delays, the Mobile Maker-space assistant has been hired. The following is the schedule for the Mobile Makerspace:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Prep	Mark Twain	B & G	Fremont	Borderwich Week #1
Prep	Middle School	Juve	Fritsch	Montessori Week #2
Prep	Mark Twain	B & G	Fremont	Borderwich Week #3
Prep	Middle School	Juve	Fritsch	Montessori Week #4

## Churchill County Library

### Tuition Support for Information Technology Gateway Training (ITGT), \$30,000

Information Technology Gateway Training (ITGT) classes have been conducted at the library and offered online through coursework provided by Western Nevada College (WNC). Topics include Microsoft, CISCO, and Web Design resulting in college credit and/or certification thus preparing the student for an IT position. Post secondary students were given top priority however high school students are welcome as well. Classes were to be accelerated with two sessions offered in Summer 2016, Fall 2017, and Spring 2017. Each session would provide 3-4 classes with up to 15 students per class.

Churchill Economic Development Authority (CEDA) and the library are pursuing additional educational partners including Vincennes University which is the institution Naval Air Station Fallon (NAS Fallon) has contracted for education and is accredited with the state to provide IT and other classes at the library. Also investigating a partnership with the Governor's Office of Economic Development to train through Learn and Earn Advanced Career Pathway (LEAP) in a capacity not yet determined. Examining the possibility of offering accelerated remedial classes in math and English.

## College of Southern Nevada

### Understanding Online Learners: Assessing Library Needs of Southern Nevada Users, \$28,670

The College of Southern Nevada Library Services has been working on the initial stages of planning a needs assessment. We have dedicated this time to drafting unbiased focus group questions for our target populations that will allow for honest testimonials, and would work for a diverse group of participants coming from a variety of backgrounds. By spending these months researching and crafting questions, and making contacts at the school district, we will be better prepared for the focus group activities. We have had multiple meetings with CCSD staff in order to obtain their participation in this research. By making contact with the Director of the CCSD Office of Charter Schools, Dan Tafoya, we learned about an unexpected opportunity to work with high school students beyond Nevada Learning Academy and recruit from local charter schools who also hold classes online. In order to craft an accurate contract with the market research company, we wanted to have the CCSD participants identified and the questions finalized. That work took longer than expected given the start of fall classes, however we have secured the CCSD partners so the contract is now in the bidding process. Despite these delays, we are confident in completing the grant as expected. We have secured CSN faculty partners who will share the focus group opportunity with their online students, finalized a list of CSN faculty to interview in the Spring semester, and have CCSD student permissions lined up for the consultant. As soon as a consultant is selected, we can debrief him or her on the details of the project and provide valuable contacts for the focus group participants and the focus group

questions. The expected benefits of the grant remain the same, as a full understanding of the library needs from a variety of online student and faculty perspectives will be outlined. The contacts made with CCSD staff will also be a side benefit of this partnership and could lead to future collaborations for the benefit of both CCSD and CSN.

## Las Vegas Clark County Library District

### Strengthening the Frontline: Social Services @ the Library, \$99,200

**PROJECT TEAM AND ADVISORS:** The advisory project team is comprised of LVCCLD staff, including staff from HR (training specialist), Development and Planning, Marketing, CALL (English Language and Citizenship program), and Community Engagement. Staff from Communities in Schools, United Way of Southern Nevada, Southern Nevada Health District, and NV Workforce Connections have also been engaged in the community mapping part of the project.

**INVESTIGATE NATIONAL MODELS:** The library District contracted with a researcher to look at national models. Phone interviews with 25 libraries were conducted and the research was compiled in a summary report that was shared with the LVCCLD HR Training Specialist to see which models might be useful in the Vegas Valley context. Development and Planning staff travelled to San Francisco in December to meet with Leah Esguerra, a staff on loan to the San Francisco Public Library from the Mayor's Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing. Ms. Esquerra provided hours of conversation about the development of the San Francisco model that is two-prong: 1)extensive training for staff on how to work with difficult customers and 2)mobilizing previously homeless people to work with regular library customers who are homeless. HASA (Housing and Safety Assistants) are now embedded in the daily activities of the central library in Civic Plaza. One of the most time-consuming parts of the HASA job is keeping social service agency information current. We are working with Leah and our HR department to provide training to front line staff in May 2017.

**COMMUNITY MAPPING AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT:** The library project team has been working with local agency partners to map the community ecosystem for agencies that work with the homeless, veterans, mentally ill, substance abuse, foster care, health, housing, food, immigrant . Conversations and visits have been conducted with the Financial Counseling Services agency which has the State's 211 contract; Communities in Schools, Workforce Connections, and UNLV's non-profit center. The most productive meetings are being held with the United Way of Southern Nevada, which is developing a Yelp-like app for social service info and intelligent referral.

## Lyon County Library

### Lyon County Library Media Box, \$32,299

Media box has been purchased and installation is complete. The box is half full of DVD's at this time and the collection grows with every new release we purchase (5 copies of each new title) The box has had some

technical issues that we are ironing out. Currently staff is trying to encourage use of the machine and training patrons how to use it.

## North Las Vegas Library District

### Bridging the Digital Divide, \$86,486

The first half of the grant has mostly involved our IT department working to purchase the requested computer equipment to complete the project, and then setting up the servers to effectively operate our Virtual Desktop Infrastructure devices. This process took a bit longer than expected due to the complexity of the setup, and the unique nature of the technology. Since we are the first agency in Southern Nevada to utilize this technology to provide public access to VDI terminals, our IT department had to create the entire system from scratch. This involves creating an individual digital server for each of our 36 machines, which are housed on two off-site servers *located in a secure building several miles away from our branch* locations. Luckily our IT department had worked on a similar project for our Main Branch location, so they had a working template, but the large scale of this new project proved to be a challenge. In the end, though, they were able to setup all of the machines, and for the last couple of months they have been up and running with little complications. The benefits so far have been amazing. The public now has access to updated computer technology that allows them to complete homework assignments, create resumes, complete on line job applications, and all of the other important life activities that require online access. Our library staff now has more time to directly assist patrons, rather than running around solving technical issues associated with our previously outdated technology. In conjunction with our new machines being installed, our Library Board agreed to change our computer policy from a maximum 1 session per day to multiple 1 hour sessions, as long as machines are available. In addition to this, our new technology has allowed us to form meaningful partnerships to dramatically extend the services that we are *able* to offer our patrons. We have a partnership with Vegas PBS to offer financial assistance for our patrons wishing to take any of their 5,000 online certification courses. We also have an MOU with Nevada Workforce Connections to begin offering full One-Stop Career Center workforce development and computer training courses, to begin in July 2017. None of these partnerships would have been viable without this LSTA project.

Other projects that are directly linked to this grant project include the introduction of digital tablets with children's educational software for circulation to our service population, and the introduction of NCLabs computer coding classes for students. These projects were made possible by State Library grant funds, and fit perfectly with our LSTA grant project.

## Pershing County High School Library

### TLC: Teen Learning Center, \$19,098.33

The purpose of this entire renovation project was to propel the Pershing County High School Library into the 21st Century. This project has done that. It has provided the rural, underserved youth of Lovelock a chance to experience the newest and most exciting learning opportunities that today's modern technology can offer.

The macro goal of the renovation project was to solidify the Media Center as the central hub of collaboration and learning in the high school. The scope of activities and students served remains the same. We expect the project to continue as anticipated. Enrollment has increased next semester for the STEM classes which utilize the media center on a daily bases.

## University of Nevada, Las Vegas

### African-Americans: The Las Vegas Experience Documentary, \$99,716

The UNLV University Libraries has successfully collaborated with Vegas PBS in the production of the documentary, African Americans: The Las Vegas Experience, set to air on primetime on February 20, 2017 on Vegas PBS. It will repeat an additional 11 times on broadcast and cable channels through February 26. In addition, the documentary will premiere at an invitation-only event at the Springs Preserve on February 9. Plans are also underway to air the documentary at an additional event in the Las Vegas Westside in February as well.

Claytee White, Director of the Oral History Research Center at the UNLV Libraries, and the LSTA-funded research assistant, Melissa Dean, have worked closely with Heather Caputo, Producer and Writer at Vegas PBS to gather historical content for the documentary and to help shape the script so that it is both engaging and historically accurate. To this end, the research assistant identified 85 newspaper articles to guide the story, identified 515 photographs to illustrate the script, and edited 10 oral history transcripts to ensure descriptions of these key events were included in the documentary.

Vegas PBS developed a story line and script for the documentary, recorded new video interviews, developed reenactments for significant moments in history, assembled and edited the content, and produced the documentary. Vegas PBS also successfully received a grant from the Las Vegas Centennial Commission to cover additional costs in producing the documentary.

## University of Nevada, Reno

### Mining, Maps, and the Mackay Theses: Digital Scholarly Treasures of Nevada, \$74,949

The University of Nevada, Reno Digital Initiatives unit and DeLaMare librarians have been collecting, scanning, and digitally preserving the 666 Mackay theses held by the University. The Mackay Theses team is on track to achieve their goals.

Progress began in the summer as an inventory, author list, and metadata fields were created. Scanning could not begin until November as the scanner itself was not received until the end of October. Most of November was used for planning strategies and implementation of scans to assess and reassess quality control of the project. That left part of December (as student help was limited due to winter break) and the beginning of January to scan and implement data as part of a fluid and moving process. At this rate, all scanning and metadata should be completed as accurately as possible with limited clean-up by the end of May, allowing

five months to finish scanning and metadata input for the project. This will allow March-May to allow for planning of exhibit curation and marketing strategies for this project and June for a final unveiling. This project will offer access to academic researchers, local enthusiasts, geologists, genealogists, and students (collegiate and K-12). Underserved rural communities will have free access to relevant information about their communities and surrounding areas.

## White Pine County Library

### Early Literacy Technology, \$10,630

The Early Literacy stations were made available to the public immediately after staff training was completed. During this time Lori Williams, Library Staff worked with AWE Learning to learn how to access the various reports available to the County Library on the use of the Early Literacy stations. On October 14, 2016 an article was printed in the local newspaper regarding the new Early Literacy Stations and information was on the County Library's Facebook account.

Children and parents love the colorful educational software that is available to them on the Early Literacy stations. Parents really like the fact the stations are not connected to the Internet. Children are learning how to use the keyboard and mouse as well as gaining knowledge. They are learning school readiness skills through technology in a safe method. On the user side, the children and parents have loved the new early literacy AWE stations. The children can't get enough of the colorful educational games and don't want to quit when their parents are ready to leave the library.